

SCALABLE PACKET-SWITCHED CALL CONTROL SIGNALING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A packet-switched communication system, method for controlling packet-switched calls over such a system, and components of the system are disclosed. In one embodiment, the system provides a scalable implementation for handling H.323 calls. The H.323-required TCP signaling terminations are handled by distributed signaling gateways. Each signaling gateway backhauls the signaling content from
10 these terminations to a central media gateway controller for processing. The media gateway controller uses an efficient gateway control protocol to control media gateways and/or media proxies that actually handle the media bearer channels associated with the backhauled H.323 signaling connections. The H.323 complexity can thus be concentrated in the media gateway controller, without requiring full H.323
15 functionality at the distributed gateways. Also, because the TCP signaling connections are remote from the media gateway controller, H.323 signaling redundancy can be provided at the media gateway controller.